

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 07280 080951Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ARA-10 /076 W
-----011820 081037Z /10
P 080742Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4256

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7280

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, ETRN, AS, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRINIDAD

REFS: STATE 227124; STATE 226584

1. DFA HAS NO PROBLEM WITH GOTT-REQUESTED CLAUSE ON "NON-HOSTIL" PURPOSES OF OMEGA (REFTELS), BUT CAUTIONS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FULL INTERAGENCY CLEARANCE (AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF TRANSPORT, UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION OMEGA FALLS, IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN MELBOURNE). DFA PROMISED TO TRY TO GET TO DOT ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY (CANBERRA IS A DAY AHEAD OF WASHINGTON).

2. EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BE A BIT MORE CAUTIOUS; WE BELIEVE DOD AND COAST GUARD REPS MAY BE CORRECT IN THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT GOTT'S LANGUAGE COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS WHEN IT APPEARS IN AUSTRALIA, AS IT ALMOST INEVITABLY WILL, GIVEN THE POLITICAL PASSIONS THAT WERE AROUSED (AND ARE STILL JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE) OVER OMEGA. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE USE OF OMEGA IN "HOSTILE" OR "NON-PEACEFUL") CIRCUMSTANCES WAS PRECISELY THE ROOT OF THE ANTI-OMEGA MOVEMENT HERE. THUS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL REPORT FURTHER GOA REACTION ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY WITHOUT PREJUDICE, OUR INSTINCTIVE PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO AVOID THE GOTT LANGUAGE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, PROJECT OMEGA
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Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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